

# TAHC SEP 2005 REPORT

## CHAPTER 1.3.7.

### ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

#### **Proposed definitions** (to be located in Chapter 1.1.1)

*Animal identification* means the identification and registration of an animal individually or collectively by its *epidemiological unit* or group. Methods of animal identification include tag, brand, tattoo, transponder (microchip), collar, ring and mark.

*Animal identification system* means the inclusion and linking of components such as *identification of establishments/owners*, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s) and records with *animal identification*.

*Animal traceability* means the ability to follow an animal during specified stage(s) of its life.

*Individual identification* means the identification of each animal using a unique identifier.

*Group identification* means the identification of a group of animals using a unique group identifier.

*Register* means the system by which animal identification and traceability information is securely stored and appropriately accessed by the *Competent Authority*.

#### Article 1.3.7.1.

#### **General principles**

1. There is a critical relationship between *animal identification* and the traceability of animals and *products of animal origin*.
2. *Animal traceability* and traceability of *products of animal origin* should have the capability to be linked to food product traceability in order to maintain traceability throughout the food chain.
3. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* are important tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses) and food safety, and may significantly improve the effectiveness of the management of disease outbreaks and food safety incidents, vaccination programmes, herd/flock husbandry, *zoning/compartimentalisation*, surveillance, early response and notification systems, animal movement controls and assurances of safety in trade.
4. The objective(s) of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* for a particular country, *zone* or compartment, and the approach used, should be clearly defined, following an assessment of the risks to be addressed, and a consideration of the factors listed below. They should be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Administration* and relevant sector(s)/stakeholders prior to implementation, and periodically reviewed.
5. There are various factors which may determine the chosen approach. Factors such as the outcomes of the risk assessment, the animal health situation (including zoonoses), animal population parameters (such as species and breeds, numbers and distribution), types of production, animal movement patterns, available technologies, trade in animals and animal products, cost/benefit analysis and other economic considerations, and cultural aspects, should

be taken into account when designing the approach. Whatever approach is used, it should comply with relevant OIE standards to ensure that the defined objectives are able to be achieved

6. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* should be under the responsibility of the *Veterinary Administration*.
  7. The *Veterinary Administration*, in consultation with relevant governmental agencies and the private sector, should establish a legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* in the country. In order to facilitate compatibility and consistency, relevant international standards and obligations should be taken into account. This legal framework should include elements such as the objectives, scope, organisational arrangements including the choice of technologies used for identification and registration, obligation of the parties, confidentiality, accessibility issues and the efficient exchange of information.
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